

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



## COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM

- ☐ 385 North Arrowhead Avenue - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0160 - (909) 884-4056
- ☐ 1647 East Holt Boulevard - Ontario, CA 91761 - (909) 458-9673
- ☐ 13911 Park Avenue, Suite 200 - Victorville, CA 92392 - (760) 243-3773
- ☐ San Bernardino County Vector Control Program  
2355 East 5th Street - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0064 - (909) 388-4600

JAMES A. FELTEN, MPA  
Public Health Programs Administrator

THOMAS J. PRENDERGAST, JR., MD, MPH  
Director of Public Health

DANIEL J. AVERA, REHS  
Chief of Environmental Health

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2003

PHD #3-336

**Contact: David Wert**  
**San Bernardino County**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**(909) 387-4082**

**Alternate Contact: Joan Mulcare**  
**Public Health Manager**  
**(909) 387-4692**

Adelanto	Montclair
Apple Valley	Needles
Barstow	Ontario
Big Bear Lake	Rancho Cucamonga
Chino	Redlands
Chino Hills	Rialto
Colton	San Bernardino
Fontana	Twentynine Palms
Grand Terrace	Upland
Hesperia	Victorville
Highland	Yucaipa
Loma Linda	Yucca Valley

## WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN 3 MORE DEAD BIRDS

West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in three dead crows found in various areas of San Bernardino. The crows were collected by San Bernardino County Public Health staff on November 5 and 6 and results were confirmed November 17 by the State Department of Health Services.

The first positive crow was picked up in the Muscoy area at Vermont and Second Street, one close to Rialto city limits at Victoria Street and Meridian, and one at Electric and 40<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of San Bernardino.

Residents living within a one-mile radius of where WNV was found may be personally contacted by vector control employees who will distribute fact sheets, look for water sources on the property where mosquitoes may be breeding, and answer questions. Prior to this visit, residents are encouraged to look for any standing or stagnant water on their property and eliminate it, or call San Bernardino County Vector Control at (800) 44-ABATE or (909) 388-4600.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Transmission of WNV from human to human generally does not occur.

--more--

Less than 1 percent of individuals, primarily elderly and those with lowered immune systems, may develop serious illness such as encephalitis and meningitis. Most individuals who are infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Others will have only mild symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches.

Detecting the movement of the virus now that it has arrived in San Bernardino County is crucial to protect the public's health. Testing mosquitoes and sentinel chickens are part of the state's surveillance system for WNV and other mosquito-borne viruses.

San Bernardino County citizens can protect themselves from mosquito bites by taking these precautions:

- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and dusk.
- When outdoors, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET. Follow the label directions when using any repellent.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property that can support mosquito breeding.

Since horses are susceptible to WNV and a vaccine is available for horses, horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about timely vaccinations.

The public is encouraged to report birds that have been dead for less than 48 hours to the County Vector Control toll-free hotline: 800-44-ABATE or to the California Department of Health Services toll-free hotline: 877-WNV-BIRD. In Southern California, all birds, other than pigeons and chickens, can be reported to these hotlines.

Before calling for instructions, individuals should note the type of bird found, its location and condition. The bird should show no signs of decomposition or maggot infestation. People should not attempt to catch or handle sick or dead birds without gloves, though there is no evidence humans can get the virus from handling live or dead infected birds.

For more information about WNV or to report dead birds, visit the California Department of Health Services Web site at: [www.westnile.ca.gov/](http://www.westnile.ca.gov/).

#####